

Waverton Precinct AGM Minutes Tuesday 10 December 2019



WAVERTON

2060

Meeting opened: 7.30pm
Chair: IG
Minutes: SF
Attendance: 19

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed residents, guests, Councillor Zoe Baker and from HMAS Waterhen, Base Commander Richard Westoby and Executive Officer Linton Lee from HMAS Waterhen.

There were apologies from RO, BB and CB, KM and PK and Councillor IM

2 Minutes of the meeting of 2 October 2019

The minutes having been previously circulated online, it was:

Moved VY

Seconded KA

“The November 2019 Minutes be accepted”

Carried

3 Chair’s Report

The Chair read his report which is attached to these minutes.

4 Treasurer’s Report

The Chair presented the report which is also attached. The balance is a surplus of \$1188.

5 Election of Office bearers

In accordance with NSC’s procedures, the Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer stood aside and handed the meeting to Commander Westoby for the election of office bearers for 2020.

There were single nominations for each of the following positions, which were declared duly elected:

- Chair Ian Grey
- Deputy Chair Jeremy Dawkins
- Secretary Sid French
- Treasurer Ron Osborn

The elected office bearers were congratulated and carriage of the meeting was returned to the Chair.

6 General Business

The Chair reported on the review of the precinct system by NSC. One issue is that

inactive precinct areas may be rolled into active ones, but further noted that all precincts adjoining Waverton are active.

He noted that public input will be sought next year and encouraged residents to make their views known by entering submissions.

One comment from the floor was that many precincts are more dormant than dead, and will come back to life when a pressing local issue is identified.

7 Reports from Standing Committees

Waverton Wollstonecraft Rail Noise Action Group:

IL gave a report. Lobbying is continuing for trials of a Slovenian rail lubrication system.

A meeting was held last week with the EPA regarding licencing. It was noted that the licence is to be split to track and rolling stock. There will be a requirement for permanent noise monitoring stations, across the network, with 90% of rolling stock to be monitored.

It was noted that a noise level exceeding 100DB at 15m would trigger a mandatory investigation.

It was also noted this approach focusses on noisy carriages more than persistently noisy stretches of track, unfortunately.

Committee for North Sydney:

JD gave a report. More than more than 90 people attended the recent AGM. A workshop was held last weekend which generated an agenda for the future of the North Sydney CBD. The Committee itself is due to meet later this week.

Residents were encouraged to become members of the organisation by going to www.committeefornorthsydney.org.au .

8 New Business

Ward Boundaries

The Chair reported that the change to a Mayor elected by councillors, which is to happen with the next elections in September 2020, will require changes to ward boundaries so that an equal number of councillors is elected by each ward. Currently there are 3 Wards each with 3 Councillors, but with 10 Councillors the options appear to be either a 5 Ward or a 2 Ward system. The preferred proposal, which has recently been put out for public comment, is to have two wards - one generally north of Military Road and its westward extensions, and the other between Military Road and the harbour.

The consultation period for this proposed change ends on January 5, with the matter to be voted at an Extraordinary General Meeting of Council on January 20 (at 06:30). The vote to select a ward layout will be based on one option only.

Comment from the floor noted the following:

- The proposed boundary will split several suburbs which are centred on Military Road or Falcon Street.
- The proposed split disrupts existing and well respected precinct boundaries.
- If a two ward system is necessary, then a split generally east and west of the freeway was seen as a better outcome for the various communities and to more

- naturally match the different priorities and concerns of the respective suburbs.
- A more sensible arrangement would be to have three wards of 3 councillors each, but this would require a further referendum to change the number of councillors from 10 to 9.

Following the discussion, it was:

Moved BD

Seconded IL

“That Precinct expresses its disappointment at the proposed lack of time and appropriate consultation for the proposed changes. Further, that the boundary be a generally north/south line defined by the Warringah Freeway.”

Passed with one abstention

Moved KA

Seconded DA

“That Precinct supports in principle a change to 3 wards of 3 councillors each, and to that end request that a referendum question seeking support for this be included in the next election.”

Passed with 3 against

Moved IL

Seconded BD: **“That given the importance of the EGM to the democratic processes of North Sydney, that we request the Mayor to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak to the Council at the meeting.”**

Carried unanimously

Ward naming

It was reported that the proposed names of the northern and southern wards are to be St Leonards and Cammeraygal respectively. Whilst no formal motion was put, there were views expressed that these names were likely to be divisive through reflecting ownership “clans” and it was also noted that they had now little geographic validity as St Leonards originally referred to all lands from the Harbour northward but now only means the far NW corner of the municipality. More practical names were North and South Wards. Though of course, given the above motions, the meeting preferred East and West Wards.

Western Harbour Tunnel

It was noted that the EIS is now due to be made public early next year. A working group will be set up through January to address issues which will need to be talked over like local traffic and parking effects at Berrys Bay and the Coal Loader area as well as ‘non Waverton’ issues such as traffic issues at North Sydney as well as air quality issues near the proposed (untreated) stacks.

The opportunity is firmly seen to also take this opportunity to negotiate what happens to Berrys Bay generally in the mid to longer term, with as much of the work as possible to be done before the tunnelling works starts plus firm agreement of what is to be done after the tunnelling ceases. Some residents noted recent letterbox leaflets from the State MP on this issue had been delivered the previous week, indicating the same approach.

9 DAS

North Sydney Olympic Pool

The Chair reported Wollstonecraft Precinct had recently hosted a public meeting with senior staff from NSC on this major refurbishment. The budget is now in the order of \$59m, and that the proposed plans include the following features:

- Overall the plans for restoration of structural and other problems appear to have been subordinated to the potential benefit of more commercialisation of the facility – it was not even clear what proportion of the budget is for the structural issues.
- It is proposed to move to use fresh water with added salt (like all other municipal pools across the State) instead of retaining the current historic and highly-valued-by-swimmers seawater system (one of only 2 in Sydney, the other being Andrew ‘Boy’ Charlton pool at Woolloomooloo).
- Demolition of the relatively new indoor pool.
- Division of the 50m pool with a moveable boom to allow 2 x 25m pools
- Reduction in seating from 1500 to 950 which will be a major blow to many local schools who currently use the venue for carnivals, but which will now have to go elsewhere.
- Construction of large entry works, which are not necessary but also not in sympathy with the existing heritage values of the area - immediately adjacent to the listed Luna Park and Sydney Harbour Bridge, and which forms a part of that whole linked historic construction project - and is in the protected curtilage zone of the World Heritage Sydney Opera House.
- It is proposed to add a hydrotherapy pool, but with no change to the sloped drop-off area or to the already very tight local parking options, which seem to indicate there has not been a proper analysis of the mobility needs of potential pool users.
- It is proposed to create more coffee shops and cafes and a much larger gym.
- The proposed extensive changes appear to ignore the issues of sustainability.

Waverton Precinct has lodged a submission based on the above issues, but residents were urged to add their submissions ; remember “the pool is for swimmers”.

22 Larkin Street: Approval has been granted for alterations and additions. Noted.

11 Balls Head Road: DA has been withdrawn. Noted.

5/28 Woolcott Street: Proposed vergola and screen. No Precinct comment.

3 Commodore Crescent: Proposed roof adjustment. No Precinct comment.

There was a move from the floor congratulating the Chair for his efforts during 2019 and this was carried with acclamation.

16 Date of next meeting February 4, 2020

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm and a Christmas party was held.